

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9 and 13 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended and no new claims are added. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that the previous rejections are withdrawn in light of the previously filed amendment and arguments.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 8, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

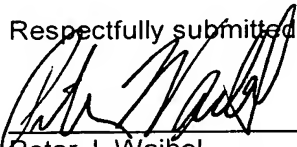
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, because the wording of moiety A is allegedly ambiguous. According to the Office Action, the term bicyclic cycloalkane monocyclic carbocyclic aryl is unclear. In response, Applicants respectfully have amended this term in claim 1 to more clearly convey its meaning to one skilled in the art.

Support for this amendment to the substituent of A in question is provided in the specification, *inter alia*, on pages 5, 6, and 8, and in examples throughout the specification and the claims as filed. In order to advance prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to describe the substituent as a bicyclic in the form of an optionally substituted 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthyl or optionally substituted indanyl, nomenclature similar to the description of these bicyclic groups in the specification and claims.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notice to that effect. If it will advance prosecution of the Application the Examiner is urged to contact the applicants' undersigned counsel at the telephone number listed below.

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7951

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Waibel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,228

Date: November 21, 2006